Rural District Council of Bromsgrove

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1970

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BROMSGROVE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1970

Chairman of the Council	E. G. CASH ESQ.,
Vice-Chairman of the Council	J. C. BEECH ESQ.,
Chairman of the Public Health Committee	A. H. HODGETTS ESQ.,

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

MRS. N. E. BYNG	E. GITTUS ESQ., C.ALD.,
MISS K. M. SCORER	A. G. GORDON ESQ.,
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J.A.R. BEKENN ESQ.,	W. G. RAGGATT ESQ.,
E. G. CASH ESQ.,	G. A. SOUTH ESQ.,
A. H. CHATTIN ESQ.,	

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	C.H.PHILLIPS.M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	P.P.CHAMINGS, F.A.P.H.I.,A.R.S.H., (Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector)
Additional Public Health Inspector	R.F.ROBINS.M.A.P.H.I., (Cert.Meat and Foods Inspector)
Assistant Public Health Inspector	K. J. SMITH
Assistant Public Health Inspector	R. J. LORD (From 1/8/70)
Student Public Health Inspector	R. J. LORD (Until 31/7/70)
Clerk	MRS. P. V. WOOLLASTON (Until 17/7/70)
Clerk	MRS. A. SIDWELL (From 7/9/70

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting this report on the health of the Community in the Rural District of Bromsgrove in 1970.

During the year the Local Authority Social Service Act, 1970, was published and became Law. This transferred certain local health authority functions to a new Social Services Department and became effective on the 1st April, 1971. At the same time there was much discussion concerning a new local authority structure and a new comprehensive health service organised on an area basis which will combine the present hospital, local health authority and general practitioner services.

How the public health service will fit into the new scheme is still uncertain, but it is essential that the new organisation will have to ensure that there is close liaison with the local authority at the local level. I hope that the present close working personal relationship of the district medical officer with other local authority officers, general practitioners and hospitals on the one hand and with the public and their representatives, the Councillors, on the other, will not be lost in the new set-up.

Rubella (German Measles) in the pregnant woman may result in death of the foetus or serious congenital abnormalities resulting in blindness, hearing loss, heart defects and mental subnormality. The Joint Committee on vaccination and immunisation recommended that rubella vaccination should be offered to girls between their 11th and 14th birthdays with priority being given at first to 13 year olds to ensure that they would be protected before leaving school. The rubella vaccination campaign commenced in September, parents being given the option of having their children vaccinated either at school or by the family doctor. It is pleasing to know that in the future there will be so much less anxiety and suffering because of this simple procedure.

The shortage of measles vaccine in 1969 was unfortunate and it was not till June 1970 that adequate supplies became available. By the end of the year 443 children completed a primary course of vaccination in the District. The disease itself can occasionally have very serious consequences, such as hearing loss, and it is hoped that more and more parents will respond to the publicity given to measles vaccination.

The preponderance of births over deaths continues and the population increases steadily, while the number of deaths has changed very little for years. With the steady increase in the number of aged in this district in the coming years and the tendency to smaller families the Council will need to give further consideration to its housing programmes. Very likely more houses will become under-occupied by the elderly which must result in a difficult human problem with further strain on the social services such as home nursing, home help and meals on wheels. The trend generally will need to be for more but smaller units of accommodation for smaller families.

The statistics contained in this report are self evident and do not need any comment. Suffice to say that the health of the community is very good and the services available to them are of a high standard. They live in a rather pleasant part of Worcestershire and it is up to them to keep it so.

It is now, with very much regret, that I must say that this will be my last Annual Report to the Council as I have to retire due to ill-health. The last fourteen years I have worked here have been a very happy and rewarding period of my life. I have been lucky to enjoy so much friendliness and co-operation from the Councillors, Officers of the Council, Health Visitors, Teachers, and all the members of the public I have met in the course of my duties.

Lastly, I am particularly indebted to Mr. Chamings, Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Robins, Mr. Smith and the succession of staff of the Health Department. They have been unfailing in their loyalty and support and it has been a great pleasure to work with them.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

C. H. PHILLIPS

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres 45,071	Mid 1970 - 37,450
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	Mid 1969 - 37,310
	Mid 1947 - 25,230
	Mid 1937 - 19,260
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book	End of 1970 - 12037
	End of 1969 - 11,896
	End of 1968 - 11,765
	End of 1967 - 11,380
	End of 1947 - 7,798
	End of 1937 - 6,645
Rateable Value 1st April 1970	£1,482,834
Sum represented by a Penny Rate at 1st April 1970.	£ 6,400

POPULATION OF PARISHES

		Estimated
	1939	1970
Alvechurch	3,236	6,350
Belbroughton	2,676	2,570
Bentley Pauncefoot	344	330
Beoley	770	800
Clent	1,943	2,430
Cofton Hackett	3,736	2,090
Dodford-with-Grafton	513	630
Frankley	184	140
Hagley	2,223	6,070
Hunnington	543	660
Romsley	1,070	1,810
Stoke Prior	2,130	3,010
Tutnall & Cobley	697	910
Wythall	4,482	9,650
	24,557	37,450

Average per house 3.11

VITAL STATISTICS

(1969 figures in brackets)

LIVE BIRTHS

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	278 (299)	270 (290)	548 (589)
Illegitimate	14 (8)	4 (14)	18 (22)
	292 (307)	274 (304)	566 (611)

Birth Rate (Births per 1,000 population)

	1970	1969	1968	1967	1937	1970 Eng.Wales	
Crude	15.10	16.40	17.06	18.19	14.1	16.0	(16.3)
Comparability Factor	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93			
Standardised	14.00	15.30	15.86	16.92			

Illegitimacy Rate (Total live illegitimate births per hundred total Live Births)

1970	1969	1968	1967	1937
3.18	3.60	4.72	6.62	3.20

STILL BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	2	1	3	(5)
Illegitimate	-	-	-	(-)
	2	1	3	(5)

Still Birth Rate (Still births per 1,000 total live and still births)

1970	1969	1968	1967	1937	1970 Eng.Wales	
5.27	8.11	9.36	14.83	38.1	13.0	(13.0)

DEATHS

M	F	Total
152 (178)	139 (160)	291 (338)

Death Rate (Deaths per 1,000 population)

	1970	1969	1968	1967	1937	1970 Eng.Wales
Crude	7.8					
Comparability		9.1	7.47	8.10	11.1	11.7 (11.9)
Factor	1.12	1.10	1.11	1.11		
Standardised	8.7	10.00	8.29	8.99		

Major Causes of Death (Percentages of Total Deaths)

	1970	1969	1968	1967
1. Disease of the Circulatory System	43.6%	46.6%	44.9%	51.7%
2. Malignant Diseases	27.5%	16.9%	21.2%	20.9%
3. Respiratory Diseases (excluding T.B.)	12.4%	13.6%	14.7%	9.9%
4. Accidents (a) Motor Vehicle	3.8%	0.5%	1.8%	5.1%
(b) All Other		1.6%	2.5%	

MATERNAL DEATHS

Maternal Mortality (Maternal Deaths per 1,000 total live and still births)

1970	1969	1968	1967	1937	1970 Eng.Wales
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	(0.19)

INFANT AND NEONATAL DEATHS

Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age)

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	4	5	9 (9)
Illegitimate	-	-	- (-)
	4	5	9 (9)

Neonatal Deaths (under 4 weeks of age)

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	3	5	8 (8)
Illegitimate	-	-	- (-)
	3	5	8 (8)

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

Legitimate	2	4	6 (8)
Illegitimate	-	-	- (-)
	2	4	6 (9)

Infant and Neonatal Mortality Rates

	1970	1969	1968	1967	1970 Eng.Wales
Deaths of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	16.41	15.28	16.52	16.12	16.0
Deaths of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	-	66.66	22.72	26.0
Deaths of infants under4 wks. of age per 1,000 total live births	14.13	13.09	14.17	15.06	12.0
Deaths of infants under 1 yr. of age per 1,000 total live births	15.9	14.73	18.92	16.56	18.0
Still births and deaths under 1 wk. combined per 1,000 total live and still births	15.9	21.10	21.84	29.67	23.0
Deaths of infants under 1 wk. of age per 1,000 live births	10.60	13.09	12.59	-	11.0

Cause of Infant Deaths

Congenital Malformation	4
Prematurity	2
Respiratory Disease	Nil
Other Causes	3

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT

1970

Causes of death		M	F	Total	Mortality Rate per 1,000 pop.
B6(1)	Late Effects of Respiratory T.B.	1	-	1	0.3
B18	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1	0.3
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Desophagus	1	-	1	.05
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplash, Stomach	6	2	8	.21
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	6	4	10	.27
B19(5)	Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	-	1	1	.03
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	17	2	19	.50
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	10	10	.27
B19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	3	3	.08
B19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	3	-	3	.08
B19(10)	Leukaemia	4	-	4	.11
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	12	9	21	.56
B20	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	-	1	1	.03
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	1	3	4	.11
B46(1)	Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	1	1	2	.05
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	3	4	.11
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	3	3	6	.16
B27	Hypertensive Disease	1	2	3	.08
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	32	30	62	1.65
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	5	7	12	.32
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	17	21	38	1.01
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	3	6	.16
B31	Influenza	-	2	2	.05
B32	Pneumonia	6	9	15	.40
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	10	6	16	.43
B33(2)	Asthma	1	-	1	.03
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	-	2	.05
B34	Peptic Ulcer	4	1	5	.13
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	1	1	.03
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	1	3	.08
B46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	3	4	.11
B42	Congenital Anomalies	2	3	5	.13
B44	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	2	3	.08
B45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	-	1	1	.03
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	6	1	7	.19
BE48	All Other Accidents	1	3	4	.11
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	1	2	.05
	TOTAL	152	139	291	8.7

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The County Council administers the antenatal, child welfare, school health, dental and specialist clinics, where much valuable work is done towards the preservation of the health of the community and the prevention of disease. Child Health Clinics are held as follows:-

Parish	Location	Day and Time
Alvechurch	The Village Hall Hopwood	1st and 3rd Wednesdays 2.pm. 1st Tuesday
Belbroughton	The Church Hall	1st Monday 2.30 pm.
Beoley	The Village Hall	3rd Wednesday 2.00 pm.
Clent	The Parish Hall	2nd Monday 2.00 pm.
Cofton Hackett	The Old Schools	2nd and 4th Tuesdays 2.00 pm.
Hagley	The Parish Hall	Wednesdays 2.00 pm.
	Old Dixonians Club Wassell Grove	1st Monday 2.00 pm.
Romsley	Church Hall	1st Thursday 2.00 pm.
Stoke Prior	The Village Hall Finstall	1st Monday 2.00 pm.
Wythall	The Clinic Silver Street	Monday 2.00 pm.

The Health Visiting, Home Nursing and Midwifery Services, provided by the County Council, supported by the services managed by the W.V.S., and the British Red Cross, continued to provide invaluable domiciliary help.

(a) Hospital Services

The following hospitals were available to the residents of the district:-

Infectious Disease	Hayley Green Hospital, Halesowen Little Bromwich Fever Hospital, Birmingham
Tuberculosis	Hayley Green Sanatorium, Halesowen
Maternity	The General Hospital, Bromsgrove Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport The Birmingham Maternity Hospital, Birmingham
Children's Diseases	Children's Hospital, Birmingham
Venereal Disease	General Hospital, Birmingham Royal Infirmary, Worcester
Mental Illness	Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, Bromsgrove Powick Mental Hospital, Malvern
Chest Surgery	Hill Top Hospital, Bromsgrove
General	The General Hospital, Bromsgrove Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital Smallwood Hospital, Redditch
Aged Chronic Sick	The General Hospital, Bromsgrove

(b) Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester. Chemical analysis of water and miscellaneous specimens was carried out by the County Laboratory at Worcester. I am indebted to the Directors of these laboratories for their ready assistance and co-operation.

(c) Ambulance Service

This is provided by the County Council and the Rural District is served from depots at Bromsgrove and Redditch.

(d) Health Education

The Council contributes to the Central Council for Health Education. Health Education is carried out mainly by the County Council.

(e) Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels services were continued in the Hagley, Stoke Prior and Wythall areas through the agency of the W.V.S. The total of meals delivered was as follows:-

Hagley	1647
Stoke Prior	1143
Wythall	2649

1. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The Chief Public Health Inspector in his report gives details of the Sanitary Inspections carried out during the year.

2. Water Supply

The whole supply of main water in the District is now the responsibility of various statutory water undertakings.

Most of the houses in the district were supplied with main piped water supplies which were satisfactory in quality and quantity. There were still, however, a few dwellings and farm premises with only well water supplies. These well supplies were to a large extent unsatisfactory and householders were advised to boil the water before use.

Routine sampling of drinking water from the remaining private wells, springs and boreholes for bacteriological and chemical analysis was continued, 72% of the samples being bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

Sampling at source of main supplies was done by theWater Undertakings.

During the year the following extensions of mains were effected:-

The City of Birmingham Water Department	1,030 yards
East Worcestershire Waterworks Company	1,342 yards
The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company	-
North West Worcestershire Water Board	2,781 yards

The following was the position withregard to the schemes for water main extensions:-

Alvechurch

Bell Green Area	Approved in principle by Ministry of Housing and Local Government - in abeyance
Bittell Farm Road	Instructions issued to East Worcestershire Waterworks Co. Work Completed.

Stoke Prior

Upper Gambolds	In abeyance

Tutnall & Cobley

Cobley Hill	In abeyance

3. Drainage and Sewerage

The following are the sewage disposal works situated in the District and operated by this Authority:

Alvechurch	Lye Bridge
Clent	Hossill Lane
Belbroughton	Weybridge
Hagley	Sweetpool Lane
Hunnington	Illey Lane
Finstall	Pumping Station to Bromsgrove U.D.C.
Stoke Prior	Henbrook Disposal Works, Shaw Lane

Following is a summary with regard to the programme of capital works of sewers and sewage disposal as recently considered by the Council:-

Parish	Scheme	Remarks
Alvechurch	Grange Lane and Rowney Green	Scheme prepared by Consulting Engineers and approved by Council, Relevant notices served. Negotiations have been opened for purchase of two small areas of land as sites for pumping stations.
	Bordesley area	Sewers will drain to Redditch but scheme dependent on improvement of disposal works.
	Bittell Road and Bittell Lane	Consulting Engineers instructed to prepare scheme on receipt of results of tests to be conducted by Surveyor. Tests not yet completed.
Belbroughton	Improvement of Disposal Works, Weybridge.	Scheme in course of preparation by Consulting Engineers.
Clent	Relief sewer Newfield Road	Work Completed
Hagley	Reconstruction of part of sewer off Middlefield Lane and Woodman Lane (Clent Parish)	Work commenced.
	New outfall sewers from north to disposal works	Work commenced
	Improvements at disposal works	Scheme approved by Counciland by Department of the Environment. The latter having authorised the invitation of tenders the Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare relevant documents.
Hunnington	Trunk sewer from Illey Lane disposal works to sewers of Upper Stour Main Drainage Authority	Sewage flow diverted to Drainage Authority's sewer as from 1st January 1971.

Parish	Scheme	Remarks
Stoke Prior	Henbrook works re-construction	Reconstruction scheme in progress.
Wythall	Inkford and Tanners Green (Hill Lane, Alcester Road, Barkers Lane & Mill Lane, branch off Mill Lane & Dipple Lane)	Trunk sewer to be extended as far as Lowbrook Bridge where it will receive sewage from properties in Norton Lane. Subject to a detailed survey being made it will be available to receive sewage from Inkford and Tanners Green areas. Consulting Engineers have been instructed to investigate and prepare a scheme.
	Shawbrook area	This scheme can proceed only when a new trunk sewer is constructed by the Upper Tame Main Drainage Authority.

During the past eight years the following schemes have been completed:-

Alvechurch	Lye Bridge disposal works re-construction Bittell Road, sewering of Village area, sewering of part of
Belbroughton	Fairfield village area, sewering of
Beoley	Holt End sewering and sewage disposal
Clent	Field Lane, sewering of (part) Horse Pasture, abolition of old broad irrigation system and sewering to Hagley disposal works Relief sewer. Newfield Road.
Frankley	M.5 service area, sewering of
Hagley	Haybridge Avenue, sewering of remainder of (minor scheme)
Romsley	Dark Lane, sewering of part of
Wythall	Station Road and Alcester Road, sewering of Peterbrook Road, Majors Green, small sewer extension (minor scheme)

Pail Emptying

The Pail Emptying service was continued at weekly intervals in areas of the Parishes of Beoley, Frankley, Stoke Prior and Wythall.

A total of 50 households were served.

4. Public Cleansing

This service is administered by the Surveyor's Department. Domestic refuse is collected weekly in the built up areas of the district and fortnightly in the more rural areas. Cesspools are emptied free of charge three times a year.

SECTION D

HOUSING

As will be seen from figures under Section A of this report the population of the district was increased by 140. At the end of the year there were 436 applicants on the Council's housing list compared with 485 at the end of 1969.

78 Council houses and flats were first let during the year whilst 90 were built by private enterprise.

Details of action taken under the Housing and Public Health Acts are included in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Routine inspections of food premises were continued during the year and every effort was made to ensure clean and safe handling of foodstuffs. Further reference to the subject is made in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

Food Poisoning

No case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases 1970

DISEASE	Corrected Notifications
Smallpox	-
Diphtheria	-
Scarlet Fever	-
Measles	113
Whooping Cough	5
Typhoid Fever	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Dysentery	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Acute Encephalitis	-
Erysipelas	-
Acute Pneumonia	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Malaria	-
Food Poisoning	-
Infective Jaundice	5
TOTAL	124

Diphtheria Immunisation

The number of children immunised during the year was as follows:-

Primary Immunisation	306	(245)
Re-inforcing (Booster) injections	286	(683)

Measles

The number of children immunised during the year was as follows:-

Age at 31.12.70 ie Born in Year	Under 1 1970	1 1969	2 1968	3 1967	4 - 7 1963-1966	8-16 1954-1962	Total
	1	102	97	73	157	13	443

Smallpox

No case of smallpox was reported.

Number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during 1970:-

Age at 31.12.70 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1970	1 1969	2-4 1966-68	5-15 1955-65	Total
Number vaccinated	1	144	100	9	254
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	1	30	31

Whooping Cough

Number of children who have completed a primary course (normally 3 injections) of pertussis vaccine (singly or in combination) in the Authority's area during the year ended 31.12.70:-

Primary 269 (224)

Tetanus

Primary courses (usually given in combination with Diphtheria and Whooping Cough) - 323

Re-inforcing doses (usually in combination with Diphtheria and Whooping Cough at 18 months or with Diphtheria at 5 years and 8 years) - 314

Tuberculosis

Incidence & Mortality during 1970

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year.

The total number of registered cases was 86 (92) as follows:-

	M.	F.	Total
Pulmonary	46	33	79
Non-Pulmonary	4	3	7
	50	36	86

Annual Report for the Year 1970

To the Chairman and Members of the Bromsgrove Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In writing this, my 26th Annual Report, I feel that I must refer to the happy relationship which has existed between all of us in the Department and Dr. C. H. Phillips who, after 14 years, has had to prematurely retire due to ill health. The Doctor's wide medical knowledge, together with his ability to work with others, plus a very friendly disposition, has contributed to the smooth running of the Department over the years. During this time he has drawn attention to matters of considerable importance to public health.

I would particularly underline Dr. Phillips' investigation into diseases which can be transmitted by exotic birds, and which has since received the serious attention of the Ministry of Health. He will be missed by all of us and I can only wish that he may recover his health and that, with Mrs. Phillips, who also has made a good recovery after a recent bad spell, may enjoy their retirement in the South of Ireland.

It has been necessary to devote quite some time to dealing with the vexed problem of litter and rubbish and whilst 1970 was Conservation Year one could sense but little improvement on the part of the public at large, and it was only by giving the matter constant attention that we have managed to keep the district reasonably clean and tidy.

Pollution in its various forms has occupied the attention of the Department. These can be briefly summarised under Clean Air, Clean Food (which has included 100% inspection of meat slaughtered in the five slaughterhouses), and the Reduction of Noise.

Because of our proximity to built up areas, indiscriminate parking of caravans, particularly on roadside verges, has caused much concern, and I would again emphasise that, having provided our own caravan site, it is incumbent upon other Authorities to do likewise, so that itinerant caravans can be accommodated in any part of the county.

I am grateful for the loyal support of my staff, who have contributed to the smooth running of the Department during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant

PEARSON P. CHAMINGS

Chief Public Health Inspector

COMPLAINTS

A total of 172 complaints were received during the year 1970 all of which were investigated and appropriate action taken.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following are the numbers and nature of Inspections made during the year:-

Houses Inspected	884
Number of inspections and re-inspections of houses	1984
Visits re complaints and nuisances	172
Visits re Meat Inspection	423
Visits re Notifiable Diseases	32
Milk and Dairies	2
Piggeries	77
Schools	14
Factories and Workshops	22
Outworkers' Premises	-
Moveable Dwelling	166
Water Supply	59
Works in Progress	516
Drainage	475
Shops etc. (re unfit food)	8
Visits to shops and food premises	503
Rodent Control	86
Canal Boats	-
Outside Interviews	748
Verminous Premises	2
Miscellaneous	623
Offices and Shops	102
Animal Boarding Establishments	48
Total number of informal notices served during the year	87

HOUSING

1. Inspections of Dwelling houses during the year:-

(i)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	884
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1984
(ii)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purposes	nil
(iii)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	19
(iv)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) not found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	39

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 70

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act 1957:-

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	-
(ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a) by Owners	-
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	-

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requring defects to be remedied	-
(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) by Owners	-
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	-

C. Proceedings underSections 16 and 23 of the Housing Act 1957:-

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demoliton Orders were made	15
(ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	25
(iii) Number of Undertakings accepted under Section 16	2
(iv) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2

General - Housing

Fifteen Demolition Orders and two Closing Orders were made during the year. Twenty five sub-standard houses were demolished as a result of formal and informal action. Two statutory undertakings were also accepted from owners not to re-occupy premises.

Discretionary Grants

Applications were approved during the year for 38 houses as against thirteen the previous year.

Work was completed at 20 houses and grants totalling £10,651 were certified for payment.

Standard Grants

Thirty two applications were approved during the year. Certificates for payment of grants totalling £7,128 were issued in respect of 33 houses.

Qualification Certificates

During the year 69 applications for Qualification Certificates were received. Thirty five Certificates were issued under Section 45(2), and 9 Certificates of Provisional Approval. Four applications were withdrawn and the remainder were under consideration at the end of the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The Camping Club of Great Britain continued to maintain their holiday site at Romsley in a satisfactory manner.

Twenty one licences in respect of a total of 336 caravans were in force during the year.

The Council owns and operates a site for gypsies at Houndsfield Lane, Wythall, where sites are provided for 12 caravans.

The Council owns and operates a residential caravan site at Wythye Heath, Wythall and at the end of the year 83 of the 98 plots were occupied.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk

As the District was in a "specified area" all milk sold to the public had to be under one of the authorised Special Designations and consequently no samples of non designated milk were taken. It will be appreciated that a large percentage of the milk retailed in the District was bottled in other Authorities' areas where it was regularly sampled.

(b) Meat and Other Foods

There are five licensed slaughterhouses in the District. All animals were inspected and this entailed some extra work at weekends and in the evenings.

Following is a summary of the inspections and condemnations which took place:-

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs and Sheep	Pigs
Number Killed	474	1	14	2099	496
Number inspected	474	1	14	2099	496
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	2	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	30	-	-	7	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	6.32%	-	-	.43%	.80%
Tuberculosis Only					
Whole carcases condemend	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-

Routine visits were made to food shops, cafes and public houses for the inspection of premises and examination of food stuffs and in the main, conditions were reasonably satisfactory.

During the year 49 samples of various foodstuffs, including cooked meats, pies, sausages, etc., were taken from premises within the district and submitted for examination. In no case was the organism of salmonella or dysentery found.

The following is a summary of foodstuffs of various kinds which were condemened as unfit for human consumption at retail food premises during the year:-

3 cwts 96 lbs. Carcase Meat	139 lbs. Assorted Canned Foods
30 lbs. Offal	35 lbs. Fresh Fish
19½ lbs. Canned Meats	3 cwts 64 lbs. Frozen Foods (due to cabinet breakdown)

(c) Ten complaints were investigated during the year with regard to foreign matter and mould in food, the articles concerned being bread (7), milk (2) and cooked meat (1). Investigations were carried out and the representatives of the firms concerned were interviewed.

It was not considered necessary to institute legal proceedings but warnings were issued in the appropriate cases.

(d) Ice Cream

The total number of registrations in force for premises for the retail sale of ice cream was 99.

Seventy four samples were submitted during the year for bacteriological examination and the results of the samples were as follows:-

Provisional Grade 1	67	Satisfactory
2	2	Satisfactory
3	5	Unsatisfactory
4	-	Unsatisfactory

The unsatisfactory samples were followed up and satisfactory results obtained.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT

Fourteen licences to slaughter animals were issued under the above Act during the year.

HOUSE DRAINAGE

Fifteen existing houses were provided with cesspools during the year whilst the drainage from 7 houses was connected tothe sewer and the cesspools abolished.

Also 142 new houses were connected to sewers and 10 to septic tanks.

The question of providing sewers to various parts of the District and improving disposal works where necessary was considered by the Council during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

MAINS

Three samples of mains water were submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination and were satisfactory.

PRIVATE WELLS AND SPRINGS

Eighteen samples were taken from wells and springs for bacteriological examination only, of which 5 were satisfactory and 13 unsatisfactory.

Fifteen existing premises were connected to the water main in 1970.

NEW MAINS LAID

A total of 5,153 yards of new mains were laid by the various Water Undertakings within the District during the year. These extensions were principally to supply new development in various parishes.

DISINFESTATION

Two houses were found to be in need of disinfestation, and the necessary action was taken.

All the Council refuse tips were periodically treated for flies and crickets where necessary by the Surveyor's Department.

RODENT CONTROL

A full time Rodent Operative is employed. A total of 499 infestations of private houses and business premises and 60 agricultural premises were successfully treated. A total of 1,233 visits were made.

During the year the Council continued to provide a free service forthe destruction of rats and mice at private dwellings but in the case of business premises a charge was made as previously.

Fifty four contracts were made for the treatment of business and agricultural premises during the year and the income from this source amounted to £398.

Due to the co-operation of the public, possibly because of free service, 217 infestations were notified. These were in early stages and were thus only a minor nature but it seems essential to continue the service to prevent any large scale build-up.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

At the end of 1970, the number of premises registered was as follows:-

Offices	33
Retail Shops	68
Catering Establishments	32

I would point out that many of the shops in this District are family businesses, not employing staff, and therefore not subject to registration under the Act.

Offices at factories subject to the Factories Act are registered with H.M. Inspector of Factories and not the Council.

Three accidents to employees were notified during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1949

No case occurred during the course of the year where it was necessary to make arrangements for the burial, under the provisions of the above Act, of a person dying within the District.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The number of industrial premises is not large and as a result air pollution from factory chimneys did not present a problem.

NOISE ABATEMENT

Complaints were received during the year mainly of noise arising from industrial premises. Informal approach to the parties concerned achieved satisfactory results.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

Licences in respect of 19 boarding establishments were issued during the year.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Premises	Number of			
	Number on Register	Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	77	26	3	-
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers premises)	2	2	-	-
TOTAL	79	28	3	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	No. of Cases in which defects found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			Referred		
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	3	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	3	-	2	-